

EMN Ad-Hoc Query on COM REG AHQ on the correlation between forced and voluntary return

Requested by Salvatore SOFIA on 3rd January 2017

Return

Responses from Austria, Belgium, Blocked / Unknown, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Norway (24 in total)

Disclaimer:

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Background information:

During the 12th EMN REG meeting held on 16th - 17th November 2016, a discussion was held on the possible links between forced and voluntary return. The assumption was that the prospect of forced return was a motivation for voluntary return, as stated in the EU Action Plan on Return, according to which "the success of voluntary return schemes also depends on how credible the prospect of forced return is."

During the following discussion, some REG members shared examples illustrating their experience of an apparent correlation between the forced and voluntary return of irregularly staying third-country nationals. The Commission expressed its wish to collect more detailed information and illustrations of this phenomenon. It is important to determine whether the likelihood of forced return is linked with an increase in voluntary returns, as part of a broader reflexion on the factors behind voluntary return and on the identification of best practices amongst Member States in this field. Against this background, the European Commission would like to launch the present Ad-Hoc Query to collect more information on (Member) States' experience and knowledge on the correlation between forced and voluntary return. The result of this Ad-Hoc Query will be used to produce an Inform.

Questions

1. This Ad-Hoc Query consists of several questions with tables to compile. Please download the attached word document, insert the data in the respective table and upload your reply as 'supporting document'.

Responses

Country	Wider Dissemination	Response
Austria	No	
Belgium	Yes	1. Please see the attached document.
Blocked / Unknown	Yes	1

**	Croatia	Yes	1. Currently, Croatia does not have an AVR program. It has been reported that there were few cases when the TCNs who received a decision to be forcibly returned asked MoI officials if they can leave voluntarily. In that case they were escorted to the airport and all the cost occurred in the procedure was covered by the MoI.
《	Cyprus	Yes	1. Please see attached
	Czech Republic	No	
	Estonia	Yes	12. The filled questionnaire is attached
+	Finland	Yes	1. Please see the supporting document.
	France	No	
	Germany	Yes	1. See the attached document.
	Ireland	Yes	1. Please see attached document.
	Italy	Yes	1. SUPPORTING DOCUMENT RELATED TO CORRELATION BETWEEN FORCED AND VOLUNTARY RETURN
	Latvia	Yes	1. See the attached document.

Lithuania	Yes	1. LT answer is provided in the document attached.
Luxembourg	Yes	1. See attached document.
Malta	No	2. Complete. 3. Attached
Netherlands	Yes	1. See enclosed document.
Portugal	Yes	1. Ad-Hoc Query on the correlation between forced and voluntary return Requested by COM on 3rd January 2017 Reply requested by 31st January 2017 Responses requested from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom plus Norway and Switzerland Disclaimer: The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State. 1. Background Information During the 12th EMN REG meeting held on 16th - 17th November 2016, a discussion was held on the possible links between forced and voluntary return. The assumption was that the prospect of forced return was a motivation for voluntary return, as stated in the EU Action Plan on Return, according to which "the success of voluntary return schemes also depends on how credible the prospect of forced return is." During the following discussion, some REG members shared examples illustrating their experience of an apparent correlation between the forced and voluntary return of irregularly staying third-country nationals. The Commission expressed its wish to collect more detailed information and illustrations of this phenomenon. It is important to determine whether the likelihood of forced return is linked with an increase in voluntary returns, as part of a broader

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process are discussed: Contact channels in the country of origin that provide information on possibilities for regular migration as an alternative to irregular immigration, legal mechanisms for entry and live in Portugal and in the EU, and awareness of the risks of irregular migration, like human trafficking and smuggling. There are also leaflets about "General information for a a safe and informed migration project" and foreigners 'law Portuguese legislation with amendments of law 29/2012" produced and available TCN's in UHSA. 4.3 What are the target group(s) of the dissemination of information on forced return in your Member State? () TCNs from a specific country of origin (please specify) () asylum seekers () rejected asylum seekers (x) TCN's in administrative detention. Please add any other relevant information: Information is disseminated to the wider public. 4.4 What channels did you use to disseminate such information in your Member State? () NGOs () diaspora communities () local authorities (x) written information in accommodation centres (e.g. leaflets, posters) (x) oral information in accommodation centres () information during the asylum procedure () web platforms/websites () social media campaigns () other, please explain Please explain the added value of the channel(s) used: Information disseminated via press releases and news shared online and through the social media reach a wider public. The results of field operations with identification of illegal third-country nationals in our territory and the explanation of the procedure of forced return and voluntary return is then shared on and raises awareness. 4.5 Please describe whether this had an impact on the number of forced and voluntary returns in your Member State: Please elaborate and if possible give insight in the subsequent numbers of AVR cases before and after the intervention. 4.6 Do you provide such information in third countries? () Yes (X) No If yes: () in countries of origin () in countries of transit () both Please add any other relevant information: 4.7 What channels did you use to disseminate such information in third countries? () local NGOs/international organisations (e.g. IOM...) () TCNs who already returned to the country origin () web platforms/websites () social media campaigns () centres for returnees () other, please explain Please explain the added value of the channel(s) used: 4.8 Do specific stakeholders, such as centres for returnees in countries of origin play a role in this process? () Yes (x) No Please elaborate: 4.9 Please describe whether this had an impact on the number of forced and voluntary returns in third countries: Please elaborate and if possible give insight in the subsequent numbers of AVR cases before and after the intervention. 4.10 What type of information about forced return do you communicate to thirdcountry nationals? () information about forced return procedures () information about grounds for

forced return () statistics about forced return to a given country of origin/region (X) Information about forced return is provided regarding cooperation with consular authorities and immigration services of third countries Information is exchanged at meetings by operational channels and also by immigration liaison officers. IOM only communicate information about assisted voluntary return 5. Please describe any good practice, lesson learned, useful tool or positive anecdotal experience relating to a possible correlation between forced and voluntary returns. Please report any good practice, lesson learned, useful tool or positive anecdotal experience. Please elaborate. NA Please summarise any findings of evaluations or studies on the subject of incentives to return (please also include the reference and link to the web page if possible).

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https://rem.sef.pt/PagesPT/DocsPT/EstudosNacionais/2009 retorno assistido.pdf We would very much appreciate your responses by 31st January 2017 2. Responses Wider Dissemination? Austria Yes Belgium Yes Bulgaria Yes Croatia Yes Cyprus Yes Czech Republic Yes Denmark Yes Estonia Yes Finland Yes France Yes Germany Yes Greece Yes Hungary Yes Ireland Yes Italy Yes Latvia Yes Lithuania Yes Luxembourg Yes Malta Yes Netherlands Yes Poland Yes Portugal Yes Romania Yes Slovak Republic Yes Slovenia Yes Spain Yes Sweden Yes United Kingdom Yes Norway Yes Switzerland Yes ****************

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5. Ad-Hoc Query on the correlation between forced and voluntary return Requested by COM on 3rd January 2017 Reply requested by 31st January 2017 Responses requested from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom plus Norway and Switzerland Disclaimer: The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-todate, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State. 1. Background Information During the 12th EMN REG meeting held on 16th - 17th November 2016, a discussion was held on the possible links between forced and voluntary return. The assumption was that the prospect of forced return was a motivation for voluntary return, as stated in the EU Action Plan on Return, according to which "the success of voluntary return schemes also depends on how credible the prospect of forced return is." During the following discussion, some REG members shared examples illustrating their experience of an apparent correlation between the forced and voluntary return of irregularly staying third-country nationals. The Commission expressed its wish to collect more detailed information and illustrations of this phenomenon. It is important to determine whether the likelihood of forced return is linked with an increase in voluntary returns, as part of a broader reflexion on the factors behind voluntary return and on the identification of best practices amongst Member States in this field. Against this background, the European Commission would like to launch the present Ad-Hoc Query to collect more information on (Member) States' experience and knowledge on the correlation between forced and voluntary return. The result of this Ad-Hoc Query will be used to produce an Inform. We would like to ask the following questions: 1. Do you have any indication that your Member State's practice with forced returns influenced the number of assisted voluntary returns (AVR)? () Yes () No 2. If Yes to question 1, please provide information below about your experience: 2.1 Did you identify any specific characteristics attached to the group(s) of third-country nationals who were more likely to take up AVR as a consequence of your policy/practice on forced return? () Yes x No If so, please specify: () nationality () gender

() age () accommodation Please specify which group(s) appear to be more likely to take up AVR as a consequence of your policy/practice on forced return and if possible please give some examples of the number of consequent AVR cases: 2.2 What element(s) of your Member States' forced return policy/practice appeared to have an influence over the subsequent number of AVR, and how? () communication about forced return () increase of forced returns over a given period () decrease of forced returns over a given period () conclusion of MOU/agreement with specific countries of origin () other (please specify: ...) NO 3. Do you inform the public and/ or thirdcountry nationals about your Member State's policy and practice on forced return and/ or current migration policy (changes)? (x) Yes () No If Yes, please go to question 4. 3.1 If No please explain why: Not specifically concerning the policy and practice return; Return measures are part of the migration Law. When the migration law is amended, those amendments shall transmitted to the press and to immigrant associations and other social partners. Please elaborate. 4. If you answered Yes to question 3, please provide information in the table below about the way you communicate about your policy on forced return. 4.1 Is such information disseminated to the wider public, e.g. via press releases or public statements by the Cabinet/ Minister? (X) Yes () No Mainly via press releases. 4.2 Do you provide such information to third-country nationals present on your territory? (x) Yes () No Please elaborate: It is available online. Information to the wider public is disseminated via press releases which are available on our official website, as well as Social Media (Facebook and Twitter). The outcome of press releases on the media - especially television news reports - is also shared online. Concerning AVR IOM in the framework of intervention in UHSA provide group sessions to TCN's in administrative detention where issues related to the migratory process are discussed: Contact channels in the country of origin that provide information on possibilities for regular migration as an alternative to irregular immigration, legal mechanisms for entry and live in Portugal and in the EU, and awareness of the risks of irregular migration, like human trafficking and smuggling. There are also leaflets about "General information for a safe and informed migration project" and foreigners 'law Portuguese legislation with amendments of law 29/2012" produced and available TCN's in UHSA. 4.3 What are the target group(s) of the dissemination of information on forced return in your Member State? () TCNs from a specific country of origin (please specify) () asylum seekers () rejected asylum seekers (x) TCN's in administrative detention. Please add any other relevant information: Information is disseminated to the wider public. 4.4 What channels did you use to disseminate such information in your Member

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6. Ad-Hoc Query on the correlation between forced and voluntary return Requested by COM on 3rd January 2017 Reply requested by 31st January 2017 Responses requested from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom plus Norway and Switzerland Disclaimer: The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-todate, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State. 1. Background Information During the 12th EMN REG meeting held on 16th - 17th November 2016, a discussion was held on the possible links between forced and voluntary return. The assumption was that the prospect of forced return was a motivation for voluntary return, as stated in the EU Action Plan on Return, according to which "the success of voluntary return schemes also depends on how credible the prospect of forced return is." During the following discussion, some REG members shared examples illustrating their experience of an apparent correlation between the forced and voluntary return of irregularly staying third-country nationals. The Commission expressed its wish to collect more detailed information and illustrations of this phenomenon. It is important to determine whether the likelihood of forced return is linked with an increase in voluntary returns, as part of a broader reflexion on the factors behind voluntary return and on the identification of best practices amongst Member States in this field. Against this background, the European Commission would like to launch the present Ad-Hoc Query to collect more information on (Member) States' experience and knowledge on the correlation between forced and voluntary return. The result of this Ad-Hoc Query will be used to produce an Inform. We would like to ask the following questions: 1. Do you

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https://www.iom.int/countries/portugal

7. Ad-Hoc Query on the correlation between forced and voluntary return Requested by COM on 3rd January 2017 Reply requested by 31st January 2017 Responses requested from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom plus Norway and Switzerland Disclaimer: The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-todate, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State. 1. Background Information During the 12th EMN REG meeting held on 16th - 17th November 2016, a discussion was held on the possible links between forced and voluntary return. The assumption was that the prospect of forced return was a motivation for voluntary return, as stated in the EU Action Plan on Return, according to which "the success of voluntary return schemes also depends on how credible the prospect of forced return is." During the following discussion, some REG members shared examples illustrating their experience of an apparent correlation between the forced and voluntary return of irregularly staying third-country nationals. The Commission expressed its wish to collect more detailed information and illustrations of this phenomenon. It is important to determine whether the likelihood of forced return is linked with an increase in voluntary returns, as part of a broader

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https://www.iom.int/countries/portugal

8. Ad-Hoc Query on the correlation between forced and voluntary return Requested by COM on 3rd January 2017 Reply requested by 31st January 2017 Responses requested from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom plus Norway and Switzerland Disclaimer: The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State. 1. Background Information During the 12th EMN REG meeting held on 16th - 17th November 2016, a discussion was held on the possible links between forced and voluntary return. The assumption was that the prospect of forced return was a motivation for voluntary return, as stated in the EU Action Plan on Return, according to which "the success of voluntary return schemes also depends on how credible the prospect of

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https://rem.sef.pt/PagesPT/DocsPT/EstudosNacionais/2009 retorno assistido.pdf We would very much appreciate your responses by 31st January 2017 2. Responses Wider Dissemination? Austria Yes Belgium Yes Bulgaria Yes Croatia Yes Cyprus Yes Czech Republic Yes Denmark Yes Estonia Yes Finland Yes France Yes Germany Yes Greece Yes Hungary Yes Ireland Yes Italy Yes Latvia Yes Lithuania Yes Luxembourg Yes Malta Yes Netherlands Yes Poland Yes Portugal Yes Romania Yes Slovak Republic Yes Slovenia Yes Spain Yes Sweden Yes United Kingdom Yes

Norway Yes Switzerland Yes ****************

9. Ad-Hoc Query on the correlation between forced and voluntary return Requested by COM on 3rd January 2017 Reply requested by 31st January 2017 Responses requested from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom plus Norway and Switzerland Disclaimer: The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily

represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State. 1. Background Information During the 12th EMN REG meeting held on 16th - 17th November 2016, a discussion was held on the possible links between forced and voluntary return. The assumption was that the prospect of forced return was a motivation for voluntary return, as stated in the EU Action Plan on Return, according to which "the success of voluntary return schemes also depends on how credible the prospect of forced return is." During the following discussion, some REG members shared examples illustrating their experience of an apparent correlation between the forced and voluntary return of irregularly staying third-country nationals. The Commission expressed its wish to collect more detailed information and illustrations of this phenomenon. It is important to determine whether the likelihood of forced return is linked with an increase in voluntary returns, as part of a broader reflexion on the factors behind voluntary return and on the identification of best practices amongst Member States in this field. Against this background, the European Commission would like to launch the present Ad-Hoc Query to collect more information on (Member) States' experience and knowledge on the correlation between forced and voluntary return. The result of this Ad-Hoc Query will be used to produce an Inform. We would like to ask the following questions: 1. Do you have any indication that your Member State's practice with forced returns influenced the number of assisted voluntary returns (AVR)? () Yes () No 2. If Yes to question 1, please provide information below about your experience: 2.1 Did you identify any specific characteristics attached to the group(s) of third-country nationals who were more likely to take up AVR as a consequence of your policy/practice on forced return? () Yes x No If so, please specify: () nationality () gender () age () accommodation Please specify which group(s) appear to be more likely to take up AVR as a consequence of your policy/practice on forced return and if possible please give some examples of the number of consequent AVR cases: 2.2 What element(s) of your Member States' forced return policy/practice appeared to have an influence over the subsequent number of AVR, and how? () communication about forced return () increase of forced returns over a given period () decrease of forced returns over a given period () conclusion of MOU/agreement with specific countries of origin () other (please specify: ...) NO 3. Do you inform the public and/ or thirdcountry nationals about your Member State's policy and practice on forced return and/ or current migration policy (changes)? (x) Yes () No If Yes, please go to question 4. 3.1 If No please explain why: Not specifically concerning the policy and practice return; Return measures are part of the migration Law. When the migration law is amended, those amendments shall transmitted to the

press and to immigrant associations and other social partners. Please elaborate. 4. If you answered Yes to question 3, please provide information in the table below about the way you communicate about your policy on forced return. 4.1 Is such information disseminated to the wider public, e.g. via press releases or public statements by the Cabinet/ Minister? (X) Yes () No Mainly via press releases. 4.2 Do you provide such information to third-country nationals present on your territory? (x) Yes () No Please elaborate: It is available online. Information to the wider public is disseminated via press releases which are available on our official website, as well as Social Media (Facebook and Twitter). The outcome of press releases on the media - especially television news reports - is also shared online. Concerning AVR IOM in the framework of intervention in UHSA provide group sessions to TCN's in administrative detention where issues related to the migratory process are discussed: Contact channels in the country of origin that provide information on possibilities for regular migration as an alternative to irregular immigration, legal mechanisms for entry and live in Portugal and in the EU, and awareness of the risks of irregular migration, like human trafficking and smuggling. There are also leaflets about "General information for a safe and informed migration project" and foreigners 'law Portuguese legislation with amendments of law 29/2012" produced and available TCN's in UHSA. 4.3 What are the target group(s) of the dissemination of information on forced return in your Member State? () TCNs from a specific country of origin (please specify) () asylum seekers () rejected asylum seekers (x) TCN's in administrative detention. Please add any other relevant information: Information is disseminated to the wider public. 4.4 What channels did you use to disseminate such information in your Member State? () NGOs () diaspora communities () local authorities (x) written information in accommodation centres (e.g. leaflets, posters) (x) oral information in accommodation centres () information during the asylum procedure () web platforms/websites () social media campaigns () other, please explain Please explain the added value of the channel(s) used: Information disseminated via press releases and news shared online and through the social media reach a wider public. The results of field operations with identification of illegal third-country nationals in our territory and the explanation of the procedure of forced return and voluntary return is then shared on and raises awareness. 4.5 Please describe whether this had an impact on the number of forced and voluntary returns in your Member State: Please elaborate and if possible give insight in the subsequent numbers of AVR cases before and after the intervention. 4.6 Do you provide such information in third countries? () Yes (X) No If yes: () in countries of origin () in countries of

transit () both Please add any other relevant information: 4.7 What channels did you use to disseminate such information in third countries? () local NGOs/international organisations (e.g. IOM...) () TCNs who already returned to the country origin () web platforms/websites () social media campaigns () centres for returnees () other, please explain Please explain the added value of the channel(s) used: 4.8 Do specific stakeholders, such as centres for returnees in countries of origin play a role in this process? () Yes (x) No Please elaborate: 4.9 Please describe whether this had an impact on the number of forced and voluntary returns in third countries: Please elaborate and if possible give insight in the subsequent numbers of AVR cases before and after the intervention. 4.10 What type of information about forced return do you communicate to thirdcountry nationals? () information about forced return procedures () information about grounds for forced return () statistics about forced return to a given country of origin/region (X) Information about forced return is provided regarding cooperation with consular authorities and immigration services of third countries Information is exchanged at meetings by operational channels and also by immigration liaison officers. IOM only communicate information about assisted voluntary return 5. Please describe any good practice, lesson learned, useful tool or positive anecdotal experience relating to a possible correlation between forced and voluntary returns. Please report any good practice, lesson learned, useful tool or positive anecdotal experience. Please elaborate. NA Please summarise any findings of evaluations or studies on the subject of incentives to return (please also include the reference and link to the web page if possible).

https://www.iom.int/countries/portugal

https://rem.sef.pt/PagesPT/DocsPT/EstudosNacionais/2009 retorno assistido.pdf We would very much appreciate your responses by 31st January 2017 2. Responses Wider Dissemination? Austria Yes Belgium Yes Bulgaria Yes Croatia Yes Cyprus Yes Czech Republic Yes Denmark Yes Estonia Yes Finland Yes France Yes Germany Yes Greece Yes Hungary Yes Ireland Yes Italy Yes Latvia Yes Lithuania Yes Luxembourg Yes Malta Yes Netherlands Yes Poland Yes Portugal Yes Romania Yes Slovak Republic Yes Slovenia Yes Spain Yes Sweden Yes United Kingdom Yes Norway Yes Switzerland Yes ****************

10. Ad-Hoc Query on the correlation between forced and voluntary return Requested by COM on 3rd January 2017 Reply requested by 31st January 2017 Responses requested from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands,

Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom plus Norway and Switzerland Disclaimer: The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-todate, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State. 1. Background Information During the 12th EMN REG meeting held on 16th - 17th November 2016, a discussion was held on the possible links between forced and voluntary return. The assumption was that the prospect of forced return was a motivation for voluntary return, as stated in the EU Action Plan on Return, according to which "the success of voluntary return schemes also depends on how credible the prospect of forced return is." During the following discussion, some REG members shared examples illustrating their experience of an apparent correlation between the forced and voluntary return of irregularly staying third-country nationals. The Commission expressed its wish to collect more detailed information and illustrations of this phenomenon. It is important to determine whether the likelihood of forced return is linked with an increase in voluntary returns, as part of a broader reflexion on the factors behind voluntary return and on the identification of best practices amongst Member States in this field. Against this background, the European Commission would like to launch the present Ad-Hoc Query to collect more information on (Member) States' experience and knowledge on the correlation between forced and voluntary return. The result of this Ad-Hoc Query will be used to produce an Inform. We would like to ask the following questions: 1. Do you have any indication that your Member State's practice with forced returns influenced the number of assisted voluntary returns (AVR)? () Yes () No 2. If Yes to question 1, please provide information below about your experience: 2.1 Did you identify any specific characteristics attached to the group(s) of third-country nationals who were more likely to take up AVR as a consequence of your policy/practice on forced return? () Yes x No If so, please specify: () nationality () gender () age () accommodation Please specify which group(s) appear to be more likely to take up AVR as a consequence of your policy/practice on forced return and if possible please give some examples of the number of consequent AVR cases: 2.2 What element(s) of your Member States' forced return policy/practice appeared to have an influence over the subsequent number of AVR, and how? () communication about forced return () increase of forced returns over a given period () decrease of forced returns over a given period () conclusion of MOU/agreement with specific

countries of origin () other (please specify: ...) NO 3. Do you inform the public and/ or thirdcountry nationals about your Member State's policy and practice on forced return and/ or current migration policy (changes)? (x) Yes () No If Yes, please go to question 4. 3.1 If No please explain why: Not specifically concerning the policy and practice return; Return measures are part of the migration Law. When the migration law is amended, those amendments shall transmitted to the press and to immigrant associations and other social partners. Please elaborate. 4. If you answered Yes to question 3, please provide information in the table below about the way you communicate about your policy on forced return. 4.1 Is such information disseminated to the wider public, e.g. via press releases or public statements by the Cabinet/ Minister? (X) Yes () No Mainly via press releases. 4.2 Do you provide such information to third-country nationals present on your territory? (x) Yes () No Please elaborate: It is available online. Information to the wider public is disseminated via press releases which are available on our official website, as well as Social Media (Facebook and Twitter). The outcome of press releases on the media - especially television news reports - is also shared online. Concerning AVR IOM in the framework of intervention in UHSA provide group sessions to TCN's in administrative detention where issues related to the migratory process are discussed: Contact channels in the country of origin that provide information on possibilities for regular migration as an alternative to irregular immigration, legal mechanisms for entry and live in Portugal and in the EU, and awareness of the risks of irregular migration, like human trafficking and smuggling. There are also leaflets about "General information for a a safe and informed migration project" and foreigners 'law Portuguese legislation with amendments of law 29/2012" produced and available TCN's in UHSA.. 4.3 What are the target group(s) of the dissemination of information on forced return in your Member State? () TCNs from a specific country of origin (please specify) () asylum seekers () rejected asylum seekers (x) TCN's in administrative detention. Please add any other relevant information: Information is disseminated to the wider public. 4.4 What channels did you use to disseminate such information in your Member State? () NGOs () diaspora communities () local authorities (x) written information in accommodation centres (e.g. leaflets, posters) (x) oral information in accommodation centres () information during the asylum procedure () web platforms/websites () social media campaigns () other, please explain Please explain the added value of the channel(s) used: Information disseminated via press releases and news shared online and through the social media reach a wider public. The results of field operations with identification of illegal third-country nationals in our

territory and the explanation of the procedure of forced return and voluntary return is then shared on and raises awareness. 4.5 Please describe whether this had an impact on the number of forced and voluntary returns in your Member State: Please elaborate and if possible give insight in the subsequent numbers of AVR cases before and after the intervention. 4.6 Do you provide such information in third countries? () Yes (X) No If yes: () in countries of origin () in countries of transit () both Please add any other relevant information: 4.7 What channels did you use to disseminate such information in third countries? () local NGOs/international organisations (e.g. IOM...) () TCNs who already returned to the country origin () web platforms/websites () social media campaigns () centres for returnees () other, please explain Please explain the added value of the channel(s) used: 4.8 Do specific stakeholders, such as centres for returnees in countries of origin play a role in this process? () Yes (x) No Please elaborate: 4.9 Please describe whether this had an impact on the number of forced and voluntary returns in third countries: Please elaborate and if possible give insight in the subsequent numbers of AVR cases before and after the intervention. 4.10 What type of information about forced return do you communicate to thirdcountry nationals? () information about forced return procedures () information about grounds for forced return () statistics about forced return to a given country of origin/region (X) Information about forced return is provided regarding cooperation with consular authorities and immigration services of third countries Information is exchanged at meetings by operational channels and also by immigration liaison officers. IOM only communicate information about assisted voluntary return 5. Please describe any good practice, lesson learned, useful tool or positive anecdotal experience relating to a possible correlation between forced and voluntary returns. Please report any good practice, lesson learned, useful tool or positive anecdotal experience. Please elaborate. NA Please summarise any findings of evaluations or studies on the subject of incentives to return (please also include the reference and link to the web page if possible). https://www.iom.int/countries/portugal https://rem.sef.pt/PagesPT/DocsPT/EstudosNacionais/2009 retorno assistido.pdf We would very much appreciate your responses by 31st January 2017 2. Responses Wider Dissemination? Austria Yes Belgium Yes Bulgaria Yes Croatia Yes Cyprus Yes Czech Republic Yes Denmark Yes Estonia Yes Finland Yes France Yes Germany Yes Greece Yes Hungary Yes Ireland Yes Italy Yes

Latvia Yes Lithuania Yes Luxembourg Yes Malta Yes Netherlands Yes Poland Yes Portugal Yes

			Romania Yes Slovak Republic Yes Slovenia Yes Spain Yes Sweden Yes United Kingdom Yes Norway Yes Switzerland Yes ***********************************
	Slovak Republic	Yes	1. See the attached document.
•	Slovenia	Yes	1. Please see attached SI REG reply.
+	Sweden	Yes	1. Please see the supporting document
+	Switzerland	No	
	United Kingdom	Yes	1. Please see the attached.
#	Norway	Yes	1. See attached document